

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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TAGS: PINT PGOV GV

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOURE'S INAUGURATION CEREMONIES

REF: CONAKRY 1972

1. SUMMARY: GUINEANS TURNED SEKOU TOURE'S INAUGURATION
JAN 3-5 INTO MAJOR FESTIVE EVENT -- ONE OF MOST ELABORATE
CEREMONIES SEEN HERE IN MANY YEARS. SEKOU TOURE'S SPEECH ON
JAN 3 INDICATED THAT RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST, FRANCE,
WEST GERMANY, AND EVEN PORTUGAL MAY IMPROVE. A NEW
INVESTMENT CODE WILL BE ADOPTED SOON. THERE WERE CRYPTIC
REFERENCES AT THE GUINEAN NEED FOR A CONSISTENT DELIVERY OF
HARD CURRENCY RECEIPTS FROM THE BOKE AND FRIA PROJECTS, AND
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THE NEED FOR A PRICE INCREASE IN GUINEA'S RAW MATERIALS,

INCLUDING BAUXITE. THESE CEREMONIES BROUGHT TO A CLOSE A 10-DAY PERIOD IN WHICH THE GUINEAN PRESS AND GOVERNMENT WERE DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO THE ELECTION AND INAUGURATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT TOURE'S MAJOR PUBLIC SPEECH, DELIVERED ON JAN 3 FOR OPENING OF NEW LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. " PARTY-STATE" IS NOW THE OFFICIAL TERM FOR THE GUINEAN POLITICAL SYSTEM; REGARDING ITS ECONOMIC OPTIONS, GUINEA IS "ON THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM," AND HAS CHOSEN THE "NON-CAPITALISM" DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.

B. A NEW INVESTMENT CODE WILL BE ADOPTED TO REMEDY CERTAIN (UNSPECIFIED) INJUSTICES IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF EXPLOITING GUINEAN RESOURCES.

C. SPECIFICALLY CITING FRIGUIA AND CBG, TOURE SAID THAT "SINCE THE BAUXITE IS THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE GUINEAN PEOPLE, THERE MUST BE A SYSTEM OF RAPPORT BETWEEN PARTNERS SO THAT NO HEMORRHAGE, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IN THE MOVEMENT OF MONEY INTO THE GUINEAN TREASURY SHOULD TAKE PLACE." (THIS PRESUMABLY REFERS TO SOME OF THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS NOW BEING NEGOTIATED BY CBG AND FRIA OFFICIALS. NEXT CBG BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY. LOCAL CBG OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, AS HAVE MOST OTHER OBSERVERS HERE, BUT HAVE NO CLEAR IDEA WHAT THEY MEAN AT THIS TIME.)

D. THERE WERE ALSO GENERAL REFERENCE TO URGENT NEED TO INCREASE BAUXITE, ALUMINA, AND IRON PRICES. THIS REMARK SUPRISED NO ONE; CBG HAS ALREADY MADE ITS OWN PROPOSAL FOR PRICE INCREASES, WHICH GUINEANS ARE NOW STUDYING.

E. TOURE NOTED THAT IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET HAD SENT A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE INAUGURATION. TOURE SAID THAT THE GUINEAN PEOPLE HOPED THIS MEANS A CHANGE IN THE IVORIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE, WHICH HAS BEEN UP TO NOW TO GIVE MATERIAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT TO ANTI-TOURE EXILES.

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F. GUINEA IS READY FOR COOPERATION WITH WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, AND "WE HOPE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE" WITH PORTUGAL.

3. THE FOREIGN GUESTS IN CONAKRY FOR THE INAUGURATION AND RELATED CEREMONIES INCLUDED MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH, MALI PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE, MRS. TOLBERT AND VICE PRESIDENT GREENE FROM LIBERIA, PAIGC LEADER ARISTIDES PEREIRA FROM GUINEA-BISSAU, VICE PRESIDENT CAMARA FROM THE GAMBIA,

AND SIERRA LEONE MINFINANCE AND PARTY CHIEF KAMARA-TAYLOR. THE GOG HAD REPORTEDLY INVITED SEVEN CHIEFS OF STATES FROM "FRIENDLY" NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AT LAST MINUTE; THIS RESPONSE NEVERTHELESS FAIRLY IMPRESSIVE AND CERTAINLY UNUSUAL BY GUINEAN STANDARDS IN RECENT YEARS. ALL VISITORS GAVE HIGHLY COMPLEMENTARY SPEECHES AT STADIUM RALLY JAN 3, STRESSING EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH GUINEA. PRESIDENT TOURE DECORATED PEREIRA (GUINEA-BISSAU) AND TAYLOR-KAMARA (SIERRA LEONE) DURING UNUSUALLY IMPRESSIVE AND RELAXED RECEPTION AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE JAN 4.

4. FOR MORE THAN 10 DAYS THE GUINEAN PRESS AND MOST GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONAIRES HAVE BEEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE ELECTION AND INAUGURATION CEREMONIES. BETWEEN THE SPECIAL HOLIDAYS GRANTED FOR THESE EVENTS AND THE NORMAL HOLIDAYS, LIFE IN GUINEA HAS SLOWED MARKEDLY. SOME OBSERVERS HAD HOPED FOR DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE INAUGURATION REGARDING RELEASE OF FOREIGN PRISONERS OR A SPECIFIC STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY. THOUGH SUCH A STATEMENT NOT FORTHCOMING, OVERALL ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY FESTIVE WEEKEND WAS ONE OF MORE OPEN GUINEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD OUTSIDE WORLD. MACDONALD

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